

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

### **Listing of Claims**

1-72 (Canceled)

73. (Currently Amended) A signal encoding method comprising:

detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval; and

blending an identification signal into the video signal and/or audio signal within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal,

wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have identification information at a certain time width that compulsorily sets the least significant bits (LSBs) of an arbitrary number of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal as main data, and

wherein the identification signal is blended into the video signal and audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and audio signal;  
and

sequentially embedding the identification signal into the main data.

74. (Canceled)

75. (Currently Amended) A signal encoding method as claim in claim 74, wherein said identification signal is ~~inserted~~blended into least significant bits of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal.

76. (Canceled)

77. (Currently Amended) A signal encoder comprising:  
detecting means for detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval; and  
~~inserting~~ blending means for blending an identification signal into the video signal and/or audio signal within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal,  
wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have identification information at a certain time width that compulsorily sets the least significant bits (LSBs) of an arbitrary number of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal as main data, and  
wherein the identification signal is blended into the video signal and audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and audio signal;  
and

embedding means for sequentially embedding the identification signal into the main data.

78. (Canceled)

79. (Currently Amended) A signal encoder as claimed in claim 78, wherein said identification signal is ~~inserted~~ blended into least significant bits of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal.

80. (Canceled)

81. (Currently Amended) A signal transmitting method comprising:  
detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval;  
blending an identification signal into the video signal and/or audio signal within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal,  
wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have identification information at a certain time width that compulsorily sets the least significant bits (LSBs) of an arbitrary number of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal as main data, and  
wherein the identification signal is blended into the video signal and audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and audio signal;  
and  
sequentially embedding the identification signal into the main data; and  
transmitting the video signal and/or audio signal into which said identification signal has been ~~inserted~~ blended.

82-88. (Canceled)